

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the abstract with the following amended abstract:

~~This document relates to a~~ A branching device for at least one electric line. ~~The branching device~~ exhibits branching contacts and a housing in which at least one electrically conducting wire terminal is accommodated in a holder. The device is characterized in that contact lips with cutting edges for cutting through the insulation of the wires of the electric line are provided on the wire terminals in that the wire terminals represent the branching contacts and in that a through-channel for the uninterrupted passage of a wire is provided in each wire terminal.